

[ **real neat** ]**newsletter**

real life. real organized. real simple.

[ **real neat** ] NEWS

Greetings!

Over the last few months, [ **real neat** ] has been gaining momentum, participating in a variety of professional organizing and business training sessions, developing and implementing a detailed marketing strategy, and forming some truly invaluable business relationships.

[ **real neat** ] has been working closely with the Bluegrass Small Business Development Center ([www.ksbdc.org](http://www.ksbdc.org)) and is a proud member of...

- » National Association of Professional Organizers  
<http://www.napo.net>
- » Christian Professional Organizers  
<http://www.faithfulorganizers.com>
- » Georgetown / Scott Co. Chamber of Commerce  
<http://www.gtown.org>

[ **real neat** ] advertisements and tips have been featured in a variety of local print and online media. In addition, a few speaking engagements and presentations for local organizations and businesses are on this month's agenda.

- » Grace Christian Center MOPS  
<http://gccmops.bravehost.com>  
<http://www.gccmopsconsignment.com>
- » MOMS Club of Georgetown  
<http://www.momsclub.org>

[ **real neat** ] even redesigned PCA Georgetown's website!

- » Providence Christian Academy  
<http://www.pcageorgetown.org>

To say the least, I am really excited about the path that [ **real neat** ] is traveling, and I look forward, with great anticipation, to meeting you, working with you, and sharing my organizing expertise with you! As a team, you and I can definitely make positive change happen in your home, your family, and your life so that you can enjoy all of them to their absolute fullest potential!



**MICHELLE DEO**  
Professional Organizer  
<http://www.realneat.com>

[ **real neat** ] KUDOS

Last month, I received the following e-mail message from Linda Durham, a veteran professional organizer based in Houston, Texas. Linda is also the website administrator for the nationwide Christian association of professional organizers known as *Faithful Organizers*:

*Hi Michelle,*

*I'm the web site administrator for Faithful Organizers. While I was updating the web site, I saw your resources page. You did a great job pulling resources together. I liked the section you provided on check lists so, I updated my web site, Organizing Matters, as follows:*

*"Michelle Deo of [ real neat ], a professional organizer in Georgetown Kentucky, has done a wonderful job collecting helpful organizing resources. She has a marvelous list of check list web sites. I could have copied the same list onto my web site but I wanted to give her credit for doing the leg work. Enjoy. Here is her resources page:*

*<http://www.realneat.com/realneat/resources.html>*

*If the link doesn't work for you, just go to her main page, [www.realneat.com](http://www.realneat.com) and click on her resources page."*

*Thanks!*

*Linda Durham  
Organizing Matters®*

*<http://www.organizingmatters.com>*

What an honor to be recognized by such a well-renowned, successful, and seasoned colleague!



## [ real neat ] FEATURE: CLOSETS

**Fall has arrived!** The temperature is dropping, the sunshine is waning, and the kids are back in school. This is the perfect time to declutter your closet. Before you know it, the holiday season will be upon us, and you'll hardly have time to breathe, let alone get organized! So, what are you waiting for? Here's the plan...

- 1. Empty your closet.** As you pull everything out, quickly sort the items into piles: "like with like." No thinking involved. No decisions to be made. Just sort... Sweaters in one pile; shoes in another pile; jeans in a third pile; and so on. If, like many people, you find something that doesn't really belong in your bedroom closet (yeah, you know ... those wrenches hiding in the back), set those items aside and return them to their respective "homes" once your closet is finally empty.
- 2. Decide what stays.** Now you have to think. As you go through each of your piles, item by item, be brutally honest with yourself. Is it still in style? Do you wear it regularly? Does it fit you perfectly? Do you feel absolutely fabulous in it? Do you love it?

Answer "yes" to all of these questions, and you can keep it! Answer "no" or even "maybe" to any of these questions, and get ready to sell it, donate it, or toss it. It's NOT going back in your closet! No more "ifs, ands, or buts" (or "butts") about it!

Seriously, when are you ever going to wear those 5-inch heels? They're just not comfortable! And, by the time you diet your way to your ideal weight, styles will have changed and you'll no doubt want to celebrate with a new flattering wardrobe anyway!

- 3. Take inventory.** What's left? Do you need a few items to round out your wardrobe? Do you need new containers or storage solutions? Decide what you will need, take measurements as needed, and search your house for functional items that would work well for closet storage. Use the items that you already own before you purchase anything new.

If you do need to head to the store in search of additional containers or storage solutions, be sure to keep a few things in mind as you shop: double-hang clothing rods are great for storing shirts and pants; clear plastic shoe boxes are great for storing extra pairs of shoes; linen, woven, or lined wicker baskets are great for storing intimates, socks, and accessories. Buy only the storage solutions that you absolutely need and will definitely use right now.

- 4. Update the closet.** Take advantage of your totally empty closet while you can (since it'll likely be a while before it's empty again). Clean the closet from top to bottom. Add a fresh coat of paint. If needed, install a new shelving or closet organizing system. Place all storage containers in their planned "homes" to ensure a proper fit (before they're full).
- 5. Put everything away.** As you return all the "good stuff" to the closet, organize everything in a way that makes sense to you... by season, size, color, outfit, or style (formal vs. casual). Planning an organizational strategy that will work for you and that you will be able to successfully maintain is key. If you work *with* your current habits (rather than *against* them), you'll reap the benefits of a much smoother and more relaxed morning routine!



"I've been getting rid of some clutter — anything that doesn't serve a positive purpose in my life — and making room for things that feel happy to me. Because I get to make my life whatever I want it to be. I get to make the room feel however I want it to feel. I get to make the closet as full or as spacious as I want it. And, if I have more clutter to get rid of after Christmas, I'm not going to wait a year, or two or three to do it."

— Jan Denise